

issued, of which probably you are not aware. During my stay at Quilon on return from Madras, the Superintendent of this farm was sent for there and directed to inspect the waste lands in the town and suggest whether and how far they could be utilized for agricultural purposes. His report is awaited. Orders have also been passed to open an Agricultural Farm at Quilon from the 1st Makarom 1982 and the Assistant to the Superintendent of the Agricultural Demonstration Farm at Trivandrum has been appointed to work the institution under the direction of the Division Peishcar. It has been made a part of his duty to visit village after village, to give instructions to the ryots in introducing approved methods of cultivation and improved and suitable tools of husbandry, to attend to cattle diseases, to teach the ryots the art of securing good manure and to get the best seeds,—in short to attend to everything that will tend to improve agriculture. The extension of such farms to other Divisions requires consideration and time. A student has been sent to England to learn agriculture and allied subjects and another is learning the same in Madras. When these students finish their course and return, their special knowledge will be utilized in the best manner possible and steps taken to improve the situation as far as the finances of the State will permit.

64. Opening of Agricultural Schools.

Mr. A. Harihara Iyer (Chirayinkil) and Mr. K. Chidambura Iyer B. A., L. T., (Ohanganachery) requested that agricultural schools might be established in the chief centres of the State for the benefit of the ryot population.

Reply.—A class had been attached to the model farm at Trivandrum, but this has ceased to exist. It will be considered whether it is possible to revive it and whether agricultural schools might be opened in outlying centres by and by.

65. Establishment of Agricultural banks and Co-operative Credit Societies, and State aid for agriculture and industry.

Mr. K. S. Shanmukham Pillai (Agricultural Improvement Association, South Travancore) observed that what the ryots required was money in small instalments at different times of the year and, for procuring this, they had now to pledge their property and even to sell the entire standing crop. The Agricultural Loans Regulation was not easily workable in practice and the opening of agricultural banks in all

the important centres of the State would alone help the land-owner in his present difficulties.

Mr. S. Swamy Iyengar of Trivandrum (Nominated) pointed out that Travancore was essentially an agricultural country, but the condition of the ryots was quite precarious. The farmers were industrious, the soil was rich, manure was not wanting and labour could be easily obtained. But one thing more was required and that was capital. The opening of agricultural banks would, he thought, obviate to a large extent the difficulties in this direction. There were State departments to regulate almost every branch of human activity, but in the matter of agriculture alone little attention was paid by Government. An Agricultural department might be established and entrusted with the advancement of agricultural and industrial loans. In the Madras Presidency, the Co-operative Credit Societies established by Mr. P. Rajagopalachari, M. A., B. L., were doing useful work. The British Government had themselves established an agricultural institution at Pusa. One further suggestion could be made and that was to draw back the money invested elsewhere at a low percentage of interest and invest the amount locally at the same interest on better security.

Mr. K. G. Raghava Menon (Changanachery), Mr. K. Kathir Pillai (Alangad), Mr. K. Karunakaran Pillai (Parur), Mr. Kumara Menon, (T. I. C., Kottayam), Mr. Kesavan Padmanabhan (Mavelikara), Mr. S. Krishna Pillai (Tiruvalla), Mr. M. Narayana Panicker (Ampalapuzha), Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai, B. A., B. L., (Nayar Samajam, Quilon), Mr. K. C. Eazhen, B. A., (Kshemathalpara Samajam, Kadapra, Tiruvalla), Mr. Padmanabhan Parameswaran and Mr. Narayanan Velayudhan (Pathanapuram), and Mr. R. Narayana Iyer and Mr. Kanakku Parameswaran Krishnan (Kottarakara) also spoke on the necessity for establishing agricultural banks.

Mr. K. C. Mamman Mapillay, B. A. (Kottayam) observed that agriculture was a very important subject and that the Government of India under Lord Curzon and His Highness the Maharajah Gaekwar of Baroda had done much towards its improvement in their territories. The Agricultural Demonstration Farm and the School of Arts at Trivandrum, the member said, did not justify their existence, for the people had studied nothing new from the former and the latter had

not hitherto been useful in initiating any public industry. It was highly necessary to maintain these two institutions on a scientific and efficient basis. He suggested that—

(1) the rigour of the provisions of the Agricultural Loans Regulation might be relaxed to some extent as had been recently done in British India;

(2) agricultural banks might be opened in important centres of the State;

(3) encouragement might be given to agricultural associations to disseminate among the people correct notions about the best methods of carrying on cultivation;

(4) up-to-date and efficient agricultural implements might be introduced and experiments shown to the ryots with them; and

(5) the use of the different seeds that could be cultivated in the State might be taught to the agriculturists.

Reply.—I would have been gladder if the last speaker instead of dwelling at length on the defects of the Agricultural Demonstration Farm and the School of Arts had visited these institutions and noted any specific suggestions which he might consider necessary for their improvement. There are several implements of modern type in the Agricultural Farm, some of which have been tried with success. I recently inspected the School of Arts and noticed some defects. It has been resolved to form a Committee for devising measures to improve this institution and the talented Chief Engineer has been thought of as one of the members of the Committee. Two other members are required and I would be glad if Mr. Mamman Mappillay and other members could unanimously suggest two names within a fortnight.

As regards agricultural associations, on the suggestion of one of the Dewan Peishkars, the matter was referred to the others, but it is seen that their opinions are divergent. The subject will be looked into and orders passed. Even in Madras, these associations are in an embryo stage and many of the details in their working have not been fully laid down. We shall watch their progress and see what could be done here in course of time, the chief question being how far Government should have connection or control in the matter.

Similarly, the Co-operative Credit Societies of Madras are also in their infant stage. In another State, the experiment was tried, but did not meet with success. The matter is important and requires legislation and caution.

The question of agricultural banks requires deep consideration, and Government will see what could be done in the matter.

66. Investigation of cocoanut blight.

Mr. K. C. Mamman Mappillay, B. A., (Kottayam) observed that, though Government had stated that it was impracticable to engage the services of an expert for the investigation of the blight of cocoanut trees in Central and North Travancore, he would press the subject once more upon their attention as the situation was serious, and if the cocoanut palm suffered materially, the State was bound to go to irreparable ruin. He therefore prayed that this matter might receive the anxious consideration of Government and that the services of a scientist might be obtained at an early date.

Mr. Luke Koshi Vydian (Karunagapalli), Mr. Kesavan Padmanabhan (Mavelikara) and Mr. N. Padmanabha Pillai and Mr. K. Kochu Thomman (Chengannur) also spoke on the same subject.

Mr. G. Idichandy, B. A., Bar-at-Law (Mavelikara) requested that the services of one or two agricultural chemists might be engaged for the purpose and asked to tour throughout the State and teach the ryot population the best methods of curing the disease. The present produce of cocoanut trees in Central Travancore was so poor that with it the cultivators were not able to pay even the tax due to Government and at this rate it was certain that the enterprising ryots of this State would soon become bankrupts.

Mr. S. Krishna Iyer, B. A., B. L., (T. I. C., Alleppey) dwelt on the necessity for the appointment of a permanent staff of agricultural scientists and entomologists.

Reply.—Government are fully alive to the importance of the subject and, as already stated, are taking measures in this direction. A student is now at Leipsig studying chemistry and on his return he will be employed to see to this among other things. It is difficult to find a proper entomologist. Government will, however, see what could be done in the matter.